

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

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WSP Launches a Mobile Impaired Driving Unit to Get DUI Drivers off the Road

The Washington State Patrol would like to extend an invitation to all news agencies to Preview the newest tool in the fight against Drunk and Drugged Driving. The Mobile Impaired Driving Unit (MIDU) has arrived and is ready for deployment after approximately 2 years of planning and hard work. On **Friday, April 28th, 2006 at 3:30 p.m.** the MIDU will be located at the Qwest Field north parking lot. Chief John R. Batiste, and some of our sponsors will be on hand to say a few words before the MIDU is placed into service for the first time.

The Impaired Driving Section of the WSP which is made up of the WSP Breath Testing Section and Drug Recognition Expert Programs partnered with the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission to purchase a 36 foot Winnebago motor home which will travel around the state to large events to enforce DUI laws. The MIDU will also serve as a Mobile Command Center for major events around the state when they occur. The unit will be equipped with up to 3 breath testing instruments, holding facilities, officer work stations and computers, radios, televisions, and restroom.

The MIDU is decorated in bright colors with photos of a WSP patrol vehicle crashing through a paper wrap with the statement of: "Want that last drink? Let us provide the chaser." The MIDU should help to serve as a mobile billboard to let the public know that we are out there ready to combat this crime which kills over 200 people in our state every year. In the State of Washington over 43,000 drivers were arrested for alcohol impaired driving and over 1,300 were arrested for drug impaired driving in 2005.

The MIDU was purchased by the WSTSC and WSP with help from different sponsors:

- Poulsbo RV
- State Farm Insurance Company
- NHTSA National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- WSTSC Washington State Traffic Safety Commission
- NPAS National Patent Analytical Systems
- Whelen
- Super Graphics
- Bostec Incorporated
- Guth Simulators

Available at the unveiling will be 10 Beta tapes with footage of the MIDU in use on its trial run. These will be given to television news affiliates on a first come first serve basis. Also available will be complimentary CD with photos of the MIDU.

For questions regarding the MIDU please call the WSP Impaired Driving Section at the numbers above. Digital photos can be sent via e-mail upon request.

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